the purview of state governments. There is no report with Government of India on the cutting of forest trees in adivasi districts of Maharashtra which have put the forest animals in difficulty and thus forced them to run to the adjoining parts of the country. As per State of Forest Report, 1997 published by Forest Survey of India, as increase of 1399 sq. km of forest cover has been reported in the tribal districts of Maharashtra as compared to 1995 assessment.

Afforestation in Reserve and Non-Reserve Forest Areas

1725. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to associate NGO, Institutions, and Companies in afforestation activities to effectively implement afforestation programmes in reserve and non-reserve forest areas;

(b) if so, the details of specific programmes and modalities finalised in the regard;

(c) the NGOs or companies presently operating in Assam in forest, wildlife conservation, environment protection and eco-development, area-wise;

(d) whether Government propose to draw a special afforestation programme for NER; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) National Forest Policy, 1998 envisages for creating a massive people's movement with involvement of women in increasing substantially the forest/tree cover in the country through afforestation and social forestry programmes, especially on all denuded, degraded and unproductive lands in reserve and non-reserve forest areas as well as in non-forest areas. People's participation in afforestation programmes is through village institutions and NGOs. Companies, jointly with NGOs and State Forest Departments, also participate in afforestation activities on degraded forest lands with their own resources and without having any claim on forest land or forest produce.

(c) In Assam NGOs namely, WWF-India, Aranya Nature Club, Early Birds, Nature's Bacon Society, Blue Cross and Rhino Foundation are operating for the conservation and protection of wildlife and eco-development. These NGOs operate through out the whole State. No Company is operating in the State for these causes.

(d) and (e) the afforestation programme for NER during the 9th Five Year Plan is as per State Plan approved by the Planning Commission.

Pollution in Tamil Nadu and Kerala

1726. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present level of Urban air, water and noise pollution in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, separately;

(b) whether Government have chalked out any time-bound concrete programme to deal with the crisis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The levels of air, water and noise pollution in the major cities of Tamil Nadu and Kerala are depicted in the following tables:—

Table:1

Ambient Air Quality Status Based on Annual Average in Tamil Nadu and Kerala

Annual Mean Concentration Range (ug/m3)

Pollution level	Industrial		Residential	
	SO2&NO2	SPM	SO2&NO2	SPM
Low(L)	0-40	0-180	0-30	0-70
Moderate(M)	40-80	180-360	30-60	70-140
High(H)	80-120	360-540	60-90	140-210
Critical(C)	>120	>540	>90	>210